

ABSTRACT

An air spring actuated brake assembly for a railway vehicle braking system is provided which comprises an air spring disposed between a mounting member for attachment to the rigid structure of the braking system and a push rod attached thereto for longitudinal movement in an outward direction upon actuation thereof to initiate a braking sequence of the railway vehicle braking system. The air spring actuated brake assembly of the present invention allows for improved control of the brake shoe forces including visual travel measurement indication which is especially desirable during light load conditions. Additionally the air spring actuated brake assembly of the invention allows for the visual inspection and simple replacement of an inflatable spring should an air leak in the actuator occur. Currently used brake assemblies employing cylinder type actuators may be retrofitted with the air spring actuator of the invention.